

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00853 301842Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 ONY-00 /026 W  
-----011784 301857Z /42 R

P 301458Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4520  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0853

STADIS////////////////////

FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: LY, US  
SUBJ: LIBYA-US

REF: (A) STATE 149531 (B) TRIPOLI 806 (C) TRIPOLI 264  
(D) 76 TRIPOLI 1504 (E) 76 TRIPOLI 1058

1. I AGREE THAT OUR LEVERAGE IN DEALING WITH QADHAFI IS LIMITED AND I AM NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE ANY SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS OR IN MODERATING LIBYAN DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES WHILE MIDEAST CONFLICT AND DEPENDENCE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ON ARAB OIL REMAIN UNRESOLVED. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS WORTH TRYING AND I DO THINK WE SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID UNPRODUCTIVE CONFRONTATIONS AND TRY TO ESTABLISH SOME MANNER OF WORKING RELATIONSHIP BASED ON OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. IN THE PROCESS WE MAY BE ABLE TO BRING SOME MODERATING INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON LIBYAN MIDDLE EAST POLICIES AND INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORISM. AT LEAST WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO INCREASE LIBYAN EXPOSURE TO OUR VIEWS.

2. IN MY VIEW, THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO RESPOND  
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TO LIBYAN INITIATIVES BY CONDUCTING AN EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE. ALSO OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IS TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT FOR LIBYANS AND OTHERS THAT US PREPARED MOVE POSITIVELY VIS-A-VIS LIBYA AND REFUTE QADHAFI ALLEGATION THAT US REJECTS LIBYAN INITIATIVES AND CONTINUES NEGATIVE STANCE.

3. IF WE ARE TO ADOPT THIS COURSE, I THINK OUR OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS MEANS FOR PURSUING THEM SHOULD BE MODEST IN THE BEGINNING. GIVEN HISTORY OF OUR STRAINED RELATIONS, IT IS PERHAPS PREFERABLE NOT TO BEGIN TOO FAST -- IT COULD BE MORE FRUITFUL TO BEGIN EXPLORING VIEWS INFORMALLY AND QUIETLY. AT MINIMUM WE CAN CONTINUE IMPROVE LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO LIBYAN LEADERSHIP IN PROCESS. OUR CONTACT HAS BEEN LIMITED DURING PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

4. I AGREE WITH DEPT'S ANALYSIS OF DISADVANTAGES OF AN EARLY VISIT TO TRIPOLI BY A "VERY SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER." WHILE IT DIFFICULT PRECISELY ASSESS QADHAFI'S MOTIVES AND EXTENT HIS PRIORITIES IN SEEKING BETTER RELATIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HIGH LEVEL VISIT IN ITSELF WOULD BE JUDGED SUFFICIENTLY SATISFACTORY TO QADHAFI. IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO GIVE HIM THAT WHILE GETTING LITTLE OR NOTHING IN RETURN.

5. AT SAME TIME I THINK WE SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT A HIGH LEVEL MEETING EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON MIGHT BE USEFUL IN FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN SOME CONTEXTS, SUCH A VISIT HERE MIGHT BE BILATERALLY USEFUL RIGHT NOW, BUT PERHAPS UNDULY THREATENING TO OUR LARGER INTERESTS IN REGION. A VISIT BY UNDER-SECRETARY HABIB OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON IF CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRANGED IN CONTEXT SERIES OF VISITS TO OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, MIGHT BE BOTH MANAGEABLE IN REGIONAL CONTEXT AND USEFUL IN HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH LIBYANS. (A JULY ARAB SUMMIT IN TRIPOLI SEEMS SO UNLIKELY THAT WE PROBABLY NEED NOT BE TIED TO THIS PROSPECT. A MEETING BETWEEN UNDERSECRETARY HABIB OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR KIKYA IN WASHINGTON MIGHT ALSO BE APPROPRIATE.

6. PRIOR TO SUCH MEETINGS, HOWEVER, DEPT MIGHT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING EMBASSY TO MAKE PRELIMINARY DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMING SFA THAT REVIEW OF LIBYAN/US RELATIONS IS UNDERWAY. WE COULD TAKE NOTE OF MORE OPTIMISTIC TONE OF RECENT QADHAFI AND LIBYAN MEDIA STATEMENTS AND SAY US GENUINELY SEEKING BASIS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS. WE COULD REITERATE OUR HOPES FOR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE (OR LESS OBSTRUCTIVE) LIBYAN MIDEAST POLICIES AND ASSURANCES ON TERRORISM. IF SUCH WERE FORTHCOMING AS THEY PROBABLY WOULD BE, WE COULD INDICATE US WILLING TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE ON THESE AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST THROUGH EVENTUAL HIGHER LEVEL VISIT TO TRIPOLI.

7. OUR VIEWS ON LIBYAN POLICIES AND L-100 ISSUE

FOLLOW SEPTTEL.  
CARLE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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